

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint comprising:
an outer member having a spherical inner surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;

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a plurality of balls each arranged in a wedge-shaped ball track formed by the track groove of the outer member and the track groove of the inner member; and

a retainer arranged between the spherical inner surface of the outer member and spherical outer surface of the inner member and adapted to retain the balls,

wherein the outer member is formed in a multi-layer structure of three or more layers formed of an outside member, one or a plurality of intermediate members, and an inside member, and

wherein at least one of the intermediate members is formed of an elastic material.

2. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1, wherein the outside member and the inside member are provided with engagement portions for effecting torque transmission.

3. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising a fixing means for fit-engaging

the inside member with the outside member through the intermediate member to integrally fix together the outside member, the intermediate member, and the inside member.

4. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the fixing means is equipped with a cylinder portion to be fitted onto an outer side of an opening end portion of the outside member, and a lock portion extending radially inwards from an end portion of the cylinder portion to be locked to an end portion of the inside member.

5. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the fixing means is a caulked portion formed through radially inward plastic deformation of an end portion of the outside member to effect locking to an end portion of the inside member.

6. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to any one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

7. A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between

a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.